TIME:
DATE: MONDAYS
SPONSOR: HAMPSHIRE BOOKSHOP

MEN WILL TRY TO PERSUADE THEMSELVES, OR AT LEAST OTHERS, THAT THEY READ POETRY BECAUSE IT IS A CRITICISM OF LIFE, BECAUSE IT EXPRESSES THE DOUBTS AND FEARS AND THOUGHTS AND HOPES OF THE TIME, BECAUSE IT IS A SUBSTITUTE FOR RELIGION, BECAUSE IT IS A RELIEF FROM SERIOUS WORK, BECAUSE....AND BECAUSE...AND BECAUSE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THEY READ IT BECAUSE THEY LIKE IT, BECAUSE IT COMMUNICATES AN EXPERIENCE OF HALF*SENSUAL, HALF*INTELLECTUAL PLEASURE TO THEM.

THAT WAS GEORGE SAINSBURY'S EXPLANATION OF WHY PEOPLE READ POETRY, IN A VOLUME CALLED CORRECTED IMPRESSIONS. WELL, NO MATTER WHICH EXCUSE YOU GIVE YOURSELF FOR ENJOYING POETRY, WE KNOW YOU'LL ENJOY THE NEW W.H. AUDEN COLLECTION OF POEMS...THE SHIELD OF ACHILLES. A HARVESTING OF THE VERSE WRITTEN DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS, THE TWENTY EIGHT POEMS IN THE SHIELD OF ACHILLES OFFER NEW EVIDENCE OF THE WIDE RANGE OF AUDEN'S INSIGHTS AND INTERESTS. THEY REAFFIRM HIS LONG-MAINTAINED REPUTATION AMONG LIVING POETS FOR HIS INTELLIGENCE, HIS LYRICAL ELOQUENCE AND HIS VIRTUOSITY.

THE SHIELD OF ACHILLES IS AVAILABLE AT THE HAMPSHIRE BOOKSHOP.... THE PRICE IS ONLY$3.00....AND THE PLEASURE IS LIFE-LONG.